Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /124 R

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USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, MTN, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE AIL SYSTEM

REFTEL: (A) TOKYO 10034 (B) GENEVA 06938 (NOTAL)

1. U.S. POSITION ON AUTOMATIC IMPORT LICENSING (AIL) SYSTEMS IS THAT THEY ARE UNNECESSARY AND SHOULD BE ELIMINATED. THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT RECEIVED ADEQUATE REASONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT MIGHT JUSTIFY MAINTAINING AIL SYSTEMS. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES HAS AGREED TO DISCUSS THEIR USE FOR SAFEGUARDS RELATED PURPOSES (TPSC 77-84).

2. JAPANESE IMPORT DECLARATION SYSTEM, ADMINISTERED BY AUTHORIZED FOREIGN EXCHANGE BANKS RATHER THAN BY GOJ, ENABLES MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI)

TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON IMPORTS EARLIER THAN BY RELYING ON CUSTOMS CLEARANCE STATISTICS. JAPANESE SAY THE INFORMATION IS USED IN A PRESAFEGUARDS CONTEXT (REFTEL A) ALTHOUGH REQUIREMENT APPLIES INDISCRIMINATELY TO ALL PRODUCTS VALUED OVER \$3000. THE SYSTEM OPERATES IN THE FORM OF AN AUTOMATIC LICENSING SYSTEM.

3. JAPANESE PRIOR CERTIFICATION SYSTEM, ADMINISTERED BY MITI FOR THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING SPECIFIC COMMODITIES

WHOSE IMPORTATION HAS SHARPLY INCREASED, SERVES A SUR-VEILLANCE FUNCTION AND ALSO OPERATES AS AN AIL SYSTEM.

- 4. THE U.S. DEL SHOULD ASK JAPANESE DEL WHY JAPAN NEEDS TO MAINTAIN IMPORT DECLARATION SYSTEM. IF JAPANESE FEAR INCREASED IMPORTS OF SPECIFIC PRODUCTS, THEN PRIOR CERTIFICATION SYSTEM SHOULD FILL NEED FOR CORROBORATING DATA FOR PRESAFEGUARDS PURPOSES. IF JAPANESE USE IMPORT DECLARATION SYSTEM FOR GENERAL STATISTICAL PURPOSES AS WELL, WHY IS IT NOT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY DATA THROUGH NORMAL CUSTOMS DATA AND CUSTOMS INVOICES?
- 5. U.S. DEL SHOULD ASK JAPANESE DEL WHY JAPAN HAS NOT STATED SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. POSITION. THE ONLY USE JAPAN MAKES OF AIL THAT COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED ANOTHER WAY SEEMS TO BE PRESAFEGUARDS USE OF PRIOR CERTIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYSTEM, WHICH APPEARS TO CONFORMS TO U.S. POSITION.

6. PLEASE REPLY ASAP BECAUSE U.S. IS IN PROCESS OF PRE-PARING DETAILED POSITION ON AIL (REFTEL B). VANCE

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